

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 868

By Johnson

A RESOLUTION commemorating the 121<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Battle Ground Academy and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that institution's Tug-of-War.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are proud to recognize those venerable institutions of learning in this State which are celebrating momentous occasions; and

WHEREAS, Battle Ground Academy in Franklin is one such institution which will soon mark two anniversaries in 2010; and

WHEREAS, founded in 1889, Battle Ground Academy will mark the 121<sup>st</sup> anniversary of its founding this year and, on April 23, 2010, will celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the school's Tug-of-War; and

WHEREAS, started in 1935 by Headmaster George I. Briggs, the annual Tug-of-War pits the two societies of the school against one another in a giant tug-of-war over the West Harpeth River; and

WHEREAS, pitting the Platos and the Greers, the two societies founded by Headmaster Briggs during his tenure, against one another, the Tug-of-War will find the students of the Upper School lining the shores of the West Harpeth River, each society determined to pull the other into the chilly waters; and

WHEREAS, over the past seventy-five years, the Platos and Greers have been engaging in this competition, and the history of the Tug-of-War is irrevocably tied to the history of the school and the history of the City of Franklin; and

WHEREAS, in the early days of the tug, the tug rope was paraded down Main Street in Franklin and the flip of a coin was used to determine which society held which bank of the river. This year's contestants will recreate the walking of the tug rope, even though the school has

moved from its original location, and position on the coveted eastern bank of the Harpeth is now bestowed to the society which has bested the other in various events throughout the school year; and

WHEREAS, the annual tug has become a point of pride for Battle Ground Academy, inspiring its students, alumni, faculty, and even local artists. In 1974, Nashville artist Lonnie Highley unveiled "Tug-of-War," which now forms the capstone to the large trophy bearing the results of each year's tug; and

WHEREAS, currently, the Platos hold a close 35-34 advantage over the Greers, with two ties, and also have the longest winning streak in the tug's history, capturing victory seven times in a row from 1945 until 1951; and

WHEREAS, the Tug-of-War has, in the manner of the best of our traditions, persevered throughout the years, overcoming the problems of outgrowing sites, droughts, broken ropes, and the lack of a suitable site to become one of this State's most treasured yearly institutions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby recognize and applaud Head of School Dr. John Griffith and the students and faculty of Battle Ground Academy on the celebration of the 121<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the school and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the annual Tug-of-War, offering our best wishes for every future success for this venerable institution and its fascinating yearly competition.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.